The Middlebury Campus

VOL. CXXII, No. 1 | MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023 | middleburycampus.com

College offers financial incentives, alternative housing due to high demand for upperclassmen housing

By CHARLIE KEOHANE
Editor at Large

THOMAS NEVINS / THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Due to increased student enrollment this fall because of a larger-than-usual number of students graduating in February 2024, Middlebury is offering a variety of housing alternatives this semester, including a $10,000 stipend to juniors and seniors who take a voluntary leave of absence for the fall semester and J-term.

Dean of Students Derek Doucet and Associate Dean of Students for Residential Life AJ Place emailed current juniors and seniors on July 31 to offer a financial incentive to take the fall semester off. The first 30 juniors and seniors who were already planning to live on campus could opt-in on a first-come, first-served basis to receive a $10,000 stipend. These students would also receive preferred status in the spring room draw.

The email explained a higher demand for upperclassmen housing due to a large class of graduating Feb students in the class of 2023.5 —220 instead of the typical 100 students. Many of these students were originally part of the class of 2023 but opted to take a semester leave of absence at some point during their time at Middlebury, many during the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result, the class of 2023 was smaller, with only 420 students graduating this past May compared to the usual 600.

According to the email, this decision was not impacted by the size of the current first-year class, which is under 600 students who started at Middlebury this month.

A follow-up email to juniors and seniors on Aug. 3 revealed that the application had, and that students receiving the $10,000 can receive the full stipend in September or in two installments in December and January in order to split the payments over two tax years.

Doucet wrote in an email to The Campus in early August that 63 students applied to receive the incentive. He added that the college expected enrollment to reach around 2,800 students this fall after the incentive program.

Gigi Montague '25.5 planned to live on campus in a two-room double in Painter Hall, but the college incentive changed her decision. Montague spent the summer working in a lab at Montana State University, and decided to take the fall off to continue doing research and enroll in classes at Montana State.

"It was a pretty tough decision because I didn't want to disrupt my life at Midd and leave my friends. I had a lot of conversations with my friends, parents and mentors and ultimately decided that life doesn't need to be so linear and that taking this semester off will give me more time to figure out if I really like academic research as well as give me another perspective on what education looks like," Montague wrote in

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Middlebury Dining Services unveils changes to dining halls, on campus cafes

By MANDY BERGHELA
Local Editor

TASHI SHERPA / THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Dining halls have always been a critical part of students' return to campus in the fall, especially when it comes to checking off their back to school hellos with old friends. But this year, there are substantial changes to the system, including shifts to hours and types of food at Ross, a switch between Crossroads and Wilson, and a new BiHall kiosk.

Ross Dining Hall is now open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. daily with continuous dining throughout those hours to alleviate some of the crowding and long lines during the lunch rush. The Ross menu has also changed, shifting from serving similar foods to Proctor and Atwater each meal toward now providing pub classics like pizza and burgers.

Ross no longer offers hot breakfast options but will continue to serve continental breakfast daily. Atwater will continue to only serve lunch and dinner, making Proctor the only dining hall on campus with hot breakfast options.

These changes were announced in an Aug. 16 email from Dan Detora, executive director of Food Service Operations at Middlebury. The email cited student input and usage trends as the reasons for these updates — "We are making these changes in response to student input as well as usage trends and to optimize staffing resources," Detora wrote.

Abed Abbas '24, the president of the Student Government Association (SGA) told The Campus that SGA was not contacted before the changes were made, but endorsed them as beneficial to both students and staff. "This is a good step to put less stress on the understaffed dining team," Abbas said. "I believe the decision to stop serving hot breakfast is data-based and the way that Ross operates adds to the diversity of the food offered around campus.

Kos Khepra '26 agreed that the new system in Ross was a beneficial change to the dining halls.

"I think the Ross changes are really great, like adding a sandwich bar, and the later hours. I also think they took hot breakfast away in order to give us hot food all day, which I do love," Khepra said.

However, some students remain concerned about the health of such pub food served by Ross, a problem Abbas said SGA is working to address.

"Healthier items should be added to the menu to accommodate all needs." Abbas said. "[SGA] will closely observe and gather student feedback during the first two weeks so we have the input we need before making decisions."

Conversations around the possibility of a BiHall kiosk started last spring, according to Detora. In order to make the kiosk a reality, dining services moved Wilson Café closer to the Grille and MiddExpress to change it from a two person operation to one, putting the other employee at the new station in BiHall, Detora said.

In the Aug. 16 email to students, Detora emphasized that the changes made were also in response to student feedback requesting extended hours for Crossroads to accommodate those studying late in Davis Family Library and other areas of campus.

"We always welcome student feedback," Detora said. "This was not just a decision by Dining Services. The Crossroads students were very much involved and agreed to the change. In turn, we will now be opening a new operation in BiHall."

Tess Hegarty '25.5, a barista at Crossroads, said she believes that because Crossroads is student run, it should be in the student center.

"From what I've been told, switching Crossroads and Wilson was the only way to keep both operating, and I think students will probably be overall happier to keep both of those spaces," Hegarty said. "I think everyone was confused at first because Wilson has a quieter studying vibe being in Davis and feels a little dead in comparison

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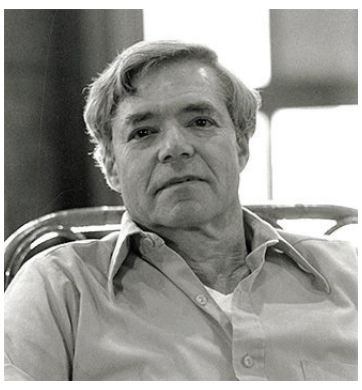
In memoriam: Remembering Middlebury faculty and staff who recently passed away

By SUSANNA SCHATZ and SABRINA SALAM

Senior News Editor and Copy Editor

This past summer, the Middlebury College community mourned the passing of three professors emeriti and one staff member: Professor Emeritus Robert "Bob" Pack, Professor Emeritus Robert "Bob" Martin, Professor Emeritus John McWilliams and former Language School Director of Operations John Stokes.



Professor Emeritus Robert Pack

Professor Emeritus Robert Pack joined the Middlebury College faculty in 1964 and became the first professor to be appointed Donald Everett Axinn Professor of English and Creative Writing. Pack spent 34 years teaching at the college and was responsible for developing and chairing the Creative Writing Track of the English major. Pack also served as a director of the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference from 1970 to 1994.

"He was the first teacher to encourage my writing as an undergraduate at Middlebury and without his encouragement and guidance, I would never have thought I, an immigrant into English, could become an American writer," poet and novelist Julia Alvarez '71 said on the college memorial webpage for Pack.

In an email to The Campus, Donald Everett Axinn Professor of English and Creative Writing Jay Parini said of Pack, "[He] was a mentor for countless students at Middlebury over many decades. He was an inspired teacher who loved poetry and literature, and his enthusiasm was catching. We had countless great conversations about literature and life. The creative writing program was something he valued hugely, and he was instrumental in its evolution."

A prolific writer, Pack not only published critical prose about Robert Frost, Shakespeare and Wallace Stevens, but also 21 collections of poetry, according to a June 16 email from the college announcing his passing. Pack continued to write poetry during his final years with the help of his wife, Patty, and his friends. His final collection of poems, "Searching for Home," will be published this fall.

Professor Emeritus Robert Martin

Professor Emeritus Robert "Bob" Martin joined the college faculty in 1976 as an assistant professor of Mathematics.

After a year of study at Harvard and MIT while on sabbatical in the early 1980s, Professor Martin returned to Middlebury and taught computer science courses. In the following years Martin became the "grandfather" of the Computer Science department, helping to build the major that has become one of Middlebury's most popular today.

"What I will remember best about Bob Martin is his cheerful support in the mid-1980s for the idea that a woman could have both an academic career and a family," Priscilla Bremser, Nathan Beman Professor of Mathematics said about Martin on his memoriam webpage. "He loved kids, and he joked about setting up a small childcare center in Warner Hall."

Professor Emeritus John McWilliams

Professor Emeritus John McWilliams was a member of the Middlebury College Faculty for close to 40 years.

A professor in the American Literature department (now known as just the English Department), McWilliams served in a number of administrative roles, including as chair of the Department of American Literature, chair of the Program in American Civilization, chair of Faculty Council, chair of the Division of Humanities and vice president for Academic Affairs.

As a professor, McWilliams developed new courses for Middlebury's comparative literature program and the departments of religion, history and art history, according to the college's memoriam webpage for him. McWilliams wrote numerous academic books, articles and book reviews, frequently contributing to the Phi Beta Kappa Key Reporter. He also received various fellowships, grants and honors, notably including four National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) fellowships.

"John was one of the most distinguished scholars ever to have served on the Middlebury faculty, and I am honored to have been his colleague and friend," Stephen Donadio, John Hamilton Fulton professor emeritus of Humanities said in the memoriam released by the college on July 27.

A memorial service for McWilliams open to all will be held in October at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in the town of Middlebury.

John Stokes

John Stokes was a member of the Middlebury College staff for over 40 years, serving most recently as director of operations, from which he retired earlier this year. Stokes was also associated with the Middlebury Language Schools in various capacities for over 40 years, according to the College's "in memoriam" webpage for him.

Stokes graduated from Middlebury's Kathryn Wasserman Davis School of Russian in 1983. He then went on to serve as the coordinator of the School of Russian from 2005 until 2012, and as interim coordinator of the School of Arabic in 2008. Stokes held the position of director of operations from 2012 until 2023.

Wendy Butler, assistant director of the School of Japanese and School of Korean, shared a remembrance of Stokes on the college's memoriam page. "John's calm and unflappable presence will be sorely missed by everyone in the Language Schools family," Butler wrote. He relished a challenge, physically and mentally. Whether he was attacking the obstacle course at Shale Hill, or sorting out complex operational puzzles for the Language Schools, his determination was relentless. His positive attitude was an inspiration."

College offers financial incentives, alternative housing due to high demand for upperclassmen housing

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an email to The Campus.

Montague added that being from Montana, she appreciates the chance to be close to family for the semester. However, she found the decision stressful and wished she had more than a couple of days to consider whether or not to take the incentive.

Montague will be abroad in the spring and looks forward to returning to campus in a year.

Aidan Kirby '25.5 was planning to go into the August housing draw, which took place the week after the incentive was offered and included about 200 students this year, comparable to the typical 200-300, according to Place. But instead of selecting housing in August, Kirby took the incentive.

"Although it played a minimal role in taking the semester off, the uncertainty in my housing situation did slightly affect my decision," he said.

Kirby isn't sure how he is spending his time off yet but hopes to use the time to help solidify future plans.

"The time frame of the offering forced me to be impulsive and did not allow me the time to secure a job," Kirby said. "Although the insecurity of the future is annoying, it has forced me to push myself out of my comfort zone and reach out to people."

For students on campus this fall, the college is reinstating other housing alternatives, including the Inn on the Green, which Middlebury purchased in September 2021. The college piloted using the Inn for student housing in the fall of 2021, and then used it again in the fall of 2022. Currently, 24 students are living at the Inn on the Green.

Athena Nooney '25 and Morgane Orcutt '25 selected Inn on the Green during the housing draw due to the lack of available spaces for their large housing group.

"We wanted to prioritize being together," Orcutt said.

In an email to The Campus, Place said that students at the Inn would have benefits including a complimentary parking pass, laundry service, assistance moving back to campus and priority housing for the spring semester.

However, Nooney and Orcutt are going abroad in the spring and are unable to take advantage of the housing priority.

"It's a nice building, and it's super cute," Nooney said. Both students expressed that it is logistically challenging at times to get to and from campus, and wish they had priority selection for senior year housing. But they're just happy to have housing.

"At the end of the day, it is housing, and it is nice," Nooney said.

Place anticipates that all students will move back to campus for the spring term.

The college also launched a program this past spring for first years to spend their first semester abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark. Thirty-two members of the class of 2027 are at DIS: Study Abroad in Scandinavia, a one-time opportunity created to help alleviate housing pressures on campus. These students will return to campus after J-Term in 2024.

THOMAS NEVINS / THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Seunghyun Lee '27 was attracted to the food scene and adventure in Copenhagen and appreciated that her financial aid traveled with her.

"My first two weeks in Copenhagen felt more like two months," Lee wrote in an email to The Campus. "A lot of people say that it's easier to study while being abroad, however as a freshman it has been quite challenging. However I wouldn't trade the past three and a half weeks for anything in this world and I can't wait to see what will happen in the next three months."

Last spring, the college also offered a $2,000 incentive to encourage students to switch their study abroad plans from spring to fall, which about 20 students accepted.

Students spending the semester away from campus are already anticipating returning in the future.

"I love Midd and the community of people and friends I have there, so having this time away will make coming back even better," Montague said.

MIDDLEBURY STUDENTS CREATE REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE MINI-GOLF COURSE

By LIV SANCHEZ
Staff Writer

COURTESY PHOTOS

This past summer, Middlebury's hockey rink was transformed into a reproductive justice themed-mini golf course.

The temporary makeover was undertaken by students from Gender, Sexuality, & Feminist Studies Professor Carly Thomsen's Feminist Building class, along with Thomsen's Politics of Reproduction class, which she co-taught with Christian A. Johnson Memorial Building Director Colin Boyd this past spring.

Thomsen said the project was the first of its kind, calling it a "roaring success." (quote roaring success?)

"Professor Thomsen and I co-taught the Feminist Building class as a means to build this course," Boyd told The Campus . "The concept behind it was to create a class where there's the rigorous content of reproductive rights and politics, but also a collaborative environment where all the students are making designs, submitting proposals, and basically making everything from scratch."

The course consisted of 11 holes, each focused on a different topic related to reproductive justice. According to Boyd, the course was constructed to mimic a typical town, each hole with a different architectural designation, such as a bar, prison, hospital or justice hall, and information on reproductive justice issues that would come up in these places.

"These places are all places that people encounter on a regular basis," Thomsen told The Campus. "In some ways, that can really overwhelm a person because we are so steeped in oppression, disenfranchisement and discrimination that it is literally built into the social fabric of our world."

Modeled after a hospital, the first hole's topic was the history of science and medicine. Boyd described the station as a corridor with white-washed walls and fluorescent lighting, creating a clinical feel.

"There was an involuntary hysterectomy case printed and hung on the wall with the names redacted, from the 1930s or 1940s, and the person was deemed unworthy of having children, so this person was forcibly [sterilized]... it was very powerful," Boyd said.

Eliot Nebolsine '25, a student from both spring classes involved in developing the course described the project as the "fusion of reproductive justice principles into one playful, accessible piece of public art." Nebolsine's focus was on the intersection between reproductive justice and incarceration — she collaborated with two other students in the Politics of Reproduction course to construct the Incarceration Hole and write the content to go along with it.

"My goal in the project was to take the highly privileged and inaccessible knowledge found in gender studies and turn it into something everyone can understand and interact with," Nebolsine said. "The focus on the fun and playfulness of the course allowed us to approach academia from a new angle."

For Thomsen, the written content was the most important component of the project.

"People were so impressed by looking at the mini golf course, but the mini golf course was a mechanism to get people to engage with the other, very significant part of the project: all of the content and the art associated with it," she said.

Each hole featured various QR codes for players to scan, amounting to 75 QR codes total across the course. The students in Thomsen and Boyd's courses compiled about 60 pages of information on these topics of reproductive justice, which they translated to 250-word educational text linked from each QR code.

Another hole gave players the choice to enter one of two identical doors, one of which led to a reconstructed crisis pregnancy center, and the other to an abortion clinic. "It's meant to gesture to the fact that crisis pregnancy centers intentionally try to confuse people into thinking that they are abortion clinics, and you don't necessarily know what you're getting yourself into until it's too late," Thomsen said.

A station called the Transportation Hole was the result of collaboration between Middlebury students and students from Metropolitan State University in Denver. Students from Metropolitan State University's Gender Institute for Teaching and Advocacy designed the set while participants in Vermont Works for Women's Trailblazers program executed the construction.

Thomsen estimated that by the end of the summer, around 1800 different people had played the course.

"So many people said, 'I learned so much,' and that to me was evidence that this was a great success," Thomsen said.

According to Thomsen, Middlebury students often discuss these topics of reproductive justice in the classroom, but not everyone has access to a Middlebury education. Because of this fact, making the exhibit accessible to the public and moving these conversations beyond the classroom was a priority to Thomsen and her students.

Thomsen and Boyd are now in the process of applying for more grant funding to create a second version of the golf course. Replicating the original mini-golf course is not possible, as some art was unable to be preserved, but the educational content was made to endure.

"This was basically a pilot test. Now we're going to see if it is possible to take this show on the road," Thomsen said. "It will be a new iteration of the mini-golf course, but the content that we created in The Politics of Reproduction will be able to easily travel. My real hope is that the golf course can inspire people to think about what activism can look like in a more capacious way."

Middlebury Dining Services undergo changes for fall semester

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to McCullough, which is livelier."

Abbas stated he believes the Wilson–Crossroads switch was inconsiderate of the student experience and identity. "A student-run business belongs in the student center," Abbas said. "Crossroads and their amazing staff make the experience enjoyable and attract many students to the space."

Abbas described the two cafés as opposites of one another — he said Crossroads is a more casual space because of its location and dim lighting, while Wilson is more bright and quiet, due to its location in Davis. "The work culture that Crossroads has resonates with students who want to hang out or do work in a more casual setting, and I believe that this culture is indispensable and most likely irreplaceable," Abbas added.

At the same time, Hegarty said she sees a new opportunity in the change. "I'm honestly excited to be a part of developing our new location and decorating it from scratch in a way that feels reflective of the vibe we want Crossroads to have. We're also planning on having outdoor seating I believe, and I hope that means we'll get to see more people down on that quad on campus."

Details have not yet been decided on exactly how this change will look but hours are expected to remain the same for the two cafés. It is also unclear how this may affect menu items or equipment provided.

However, students are always welcome to provide feedback to dining services as well as the SGA to give input on how to make both the spaces comfortable, and where students will actually want to go.

"The SGA is willing to support the Crossroads staff in whatever they believe is better for their team and the student body." Abbas said. "We are willing to advocate for the satisfaction of our constituents."

TASHI SHERPA / THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY RECOVERS AFTER SUMMER FLOODING

By EMILY HOGAN
Local Editor

"It was the type of thing that no one expected," said Barbara Harding, owner of Otter Creek Used Books, in reference to the early August flash flood event in Middlebury.

The town received six inches of rain in a two -and- a- half hour period on the evening of Thursday, Aug.ust 3rd, an occurrence which Emmalee Cherington, the Town of Middlebury's pPublic wWorks pPlanning dDirector, referred to as a once- in n a1000-year event.

The flooding in Middlebury and the greater Addison County area was part of a more extensive period of heavy rainfall throughout the state of Vermont over the summer. FThe flooding on July 9 caused multiple landslides, leading to home damage in towns like Ripton, Vt., along with damage to infrastructure such as culverts and roadways.

Middlebury'sThe flooding in August can be attributed in part to a compounded effect resulting from the rain the town received in July.

"Our wastewater plant got hit hard in the early part of the week of July 10," Cherington said, resulting in numerous waste issues.

Later in the week, on July 14th, East Middlebury experienced the same heavy rainfall. Both North Branch Road and Dragon Brook Road, in addition to the river corridor itself, experienced rain flows of around five to six inches spread out in a 24-hour period, leaving the ground fully saturated.

This July rainstorm caused statewide flooding, and. tThe Middlebury and Vergennes Fire Departments' Technical Rescue Teams were deployed to carry out rescues at this time. Chief of the Middlebury Fire Department David Shaw, and along with his team, executed conducted swift-water rescues in Montpelier and Berlin. The team also carried out flood water, trailer park, automobile , and home rescues.

The Middlebury Police Department, which also oversees Emergencyoversees runs the town's Emergency Management, regularly monitors weather conditions and observes areas with vulnerabilities to flooding. When a flood hazard is increasing, the team notifies the Fire Department to assemble put together their Technical Rescue Team. Police Chief and Emergency Management Director Tom Hanley, Police Chief and Emergency Management Director, added that in this and similar flooding cases, the police station acts as a temporary shelter.

The periodic rain the area received in the next few weeks primed the land for a flooding event on the evening of August 3rd.

"We're aware of the saturation point of the ground and we were fully aware of the inability of local waterways to handle any more water," Shaw said.

In addition to the limited storage capacity of the tributaries — (rivers and streams flowing into larger lakes —) and waterways, the area had already lost much of its river corridor protection and stabilization measures. Before Prior to the August emergencyevent, Cherington was working on the restabilization of the banks and protection of property owners, as well as the reconstruction of sections of roadway, ditches, and culverts culvers.

This localized heavy flooding caused Seymour Street to flood, which backed up into Lucius Shaw Lane and, in turn floodedflooding the Middlebury Police Station.

"We have a big truck that has radio telemetry in it and we moved our operations to this truck," said Hanley said. The team operated out of this truck until they were able to get back into the Police Station, about eight days later.

The Police Department worked with Vermont Emergency Management to arrange for the delivery of 34,000 pounds of drinking water for a number of people in East Middlebury who were without running water for about a week and a half.

The town's main pump station, which pumps waste back up to the wastewater plant, was flooded as well. "The pumps aren't designed to go underwater, so it totally fried the pumps and the motors,", Cherington said. Her team is now working to get the system back online.

The Middlebury Fire Department conducted several home and vehicle rescues following the August flooding event. While the team has not carried out any rescues since then, Shaw mentioned that they are now more aware of shortcomings in with regard to department resources.

"We made the determination that we need a different type of boat," said Shaw said.

The Fire Department applied for and received a grant to purchase for a different type style of boat for future rescues and flood events.

Christopher Taft, district transportation administrator of the District Maintenance and Fleet Division Christopher Taft at the Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) noted in an email to The Campus that AOT's geotechnical team is currently working on designing slope repairs following erosion on VT 125. "[We] will be working with our design teams on replacing/upgrading the structure in the years to come,", Taft added.

Patrick Ross, hydraulics engineer at the AOT, saidexplainedadded in an email to The Campus how the AOT's focus on resilient infrastructure following past flooding events hasve lessened the impact of heavy rain flow events such as recent floodsthese. He noted how this summer Vermont flooding had not caused brought with it as extensive damage to roadway infrastructure such as , like bridges, culverts, and roadway embankments, as was seen following Hurricane Irene in 2011. "This is in part because we went back and fixed substandard flood recovery sites after Tropical Storm Irene and in part due to our continued efforts to build more resilient infrastructure,", Ross said.

Despite this infrastructure work, many Marble Works businesses were impacted by the flooding in August, because of given their proximity to Otter Creek.

Harding noted that Otter Creek Used Books was affected minimally, explaining and primarily in that the store's carpet was waterlogged. The Marble Works parking lot flooded due to the insufficient storage capacity of the drains to store such a large given the volume of rain received. This water came over the curbing and flowed underneath the gap in her door and down the business's hallway.

"I was fortunate that [the water] it didn't spread, it just stayed in the hallway and I am grateful that it didn't come into the green room where the cash register is,", Harding said.

She did lose some books placed outside, including those that were on sale and two small bookcases that she had put outside to air out, but she said mentioned that she was thankful the damage wasn't worse, especially after reading about the flooding in Montpelier.

COURTESY PHOTO / EMMALEE CHERINGTON

Rt. 116 experienced significant damage due to summer flash flooding.

Another community member affected by the flood was Elise Haydon, executive director of the Yellow House Community (YHC), a nonprofit supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Middlebury. These individuals who are able to reside in the business's two properties, the Yellow House and the carriage barn, which are located at the base of Chipman Hill. Haydon received a call on the night of August 3rd that the basement of the carriage barn had been flooded. SheHaydon and her colleagues found that the hydrostatic pressure that built up underneath the building raised the concrete slab of the basement, allowing water to enter.

Haydon said mentioned that the Yellow House property was also flooded.

"The aftermath has meant we have to move our residents out of the carriage barn and into the yellow house," she noted. She and others at the YHC are working to get the carriage barn back to functioning online. While the building now has power and a working fire alarm system, it does not yet have heating or cooling.

"So, you know, it's been more than a month since that event and we still don't have a functioning building," Haydon said. She has been working to apply for grants in order to fund some of the YHC's recovery process.

Addison County does not qualify for all FEMA assistance at this time. Those IiIndividuals and businesses who have experienced damage have a number of smaller grants and funds that they can access, such as 211.org and United Way of Vermont.

The Vermont Community Foundation is currently accepting donations to its Flood Response and Recovery Fund to support those in Vermont who have been affected by the flood and assist with recovery efforts.

Both Harding and Haydon noted how the Middlebury community has come together for the recovery process.

Harding saw support from those who came into Otter Creek Used Books the day after to ask questions and show support. "I think we're just really lucky that this is a grand community that would support the businesses", she said.

"We got to feel that support from our community and to learn that we are resilient and we can rebuild,", Haydon added.

Discovering Middlebury in the summer and fall beyond campus

By MANDY BERGHELA
Local Editor

From lively festivals to summer markets and outdoor adventures, there are many engaging activities to find off-campus in the town of Middlebury. of the different activities that occur outside the college itself.

The Better Middlebury Partnership is an established civic organization with nearly four decades old, and of history that has worksed to organize events in the town during the summer months.

"The organization operates with a dedicated team of 14 board members, along with an executive director." saidsays Karen Dugay, the executive director of Better Middlebury Partnership. "Its primary mission is to promote community engagement in Middlebury by organizing a wide array of events and activities that cater to both residents and college students alike."

One of the main highlights over the summer was the annual summer market in Triangle Park between Merchant Row and Main Street, which ran from June 1 to August 31. ItThe market , which featureds around 40 vendors a week from the greater Middlebury area, who sold a range of items, from jewelry to pottery, according to Karen Dugay, the executive director of Better Middlebury Partnership. ranging from jewelry to pottery variety of different vendors from all around the greater Middlebury area.

"The market ran from June 1––August 31 with an average of 40 vendors a week,." Dugay saidsays. "There was food every week from local produce, but also jewelry and pottery. I always like seeing how the community intersects together."

Students who stayed at Middlebury over the summer also enjoyed attending the summer market, assince it is a way to get off of campus and get engaged more with the folks in the town.

Josette Chun ' '26 went to the market and loved shopping from all the local vendors to shop from. Said Chun,

"They had so many displays of local jewelry and a tent for a make- your- own bracelet with stone and crystals, local honey, and maple syrup. I overall think it it [the market] is a great place to shop local from vintage items to some homegrown foods you can't get at the dining hall,." Chun said.

Although the majority of the markets were successful throughout the summer, the market, like many other events, was were impacted in some way by the rain and flooding that hit Vermont in July and Augusthard, with one of them being canceled, according to Dugay.. One was cancelled

"We had a couple markets impacted,." Dugay saidsays. "One was outright canceled. It has been frustrating with all of this rain, but all of us in the town were adaptable. On the night of flash floods, we were able to pull everyone out of the market safely because we were being proactive."

Other events were impacted as well. The 8th annual Foodaroo at Marble Works was set to take place on June 25, but however due to weather conditions, had to be moved to August 13. On August 13 Despite this, the Foodaroo continued as planned, featuring some of the greatest culinary artisans from across Addison County and the state as a whole.

Another One of the other more popular series of events was the Festival on the Green. The town celebrated its 44th annual celebration of the festival and was held this year from July 9––15. Festival on the Green typically involves loads of musical performances from blues to R&B, as well as street dancing and many vendors to shop and eat from.

"The festival still went as planned,." Dugay saidsays. "However, we did have to move some days to an inside venue because of the weather."

Festival on the Green typically involves loads of musical performances from blues to R&B, street dancing, and many vendors to shop and eat from.

The festival attracteds many students interning and studying during the summer, such as Hannah Alberti ' '26. "I attended the jazz dancing on the street and it was some of the most fun I had all summer. It was beautiful to just goof off with my friends as we tried to learn the steps. I also really loved watching couples dance with each other, especially old ones,." said Alberti said.

The eventsfun also continues into the fall, with many upcoming activities open to locals as well as college students. events in store for those in the town of Middlebury, and are open to all students as well.

"On September 30, during parents weekend at the college, from 10:00––2:00, downtown Middlebury will have about 50 vendors,." Dugay saidsays. "There will be lots of food and music at the gazebo. It's something both students and parents should check out!"

Other events on the fall schedule will include the Middlebury Car Show and Festival on October 15th, as well as a Halloween trick-or-treating for kids in the town on October 29th, both of which are open to the public.

Students who are looking to become more involved in the Middlebury community can email BMP@bettermiddleburypartnership.org or can visit Experience Middlebury to find upcoming events. "If students are looking to get more involved with the Middlebury town community, they can look on our Experience Middlebury website and email us (karen@bettermiddleburypartnership.org) for what events they want to be involved in or other ideas!" Dugay says. "We want the town and the college to be connected, as this is a place for everyone to come together!" Dugay added.

LIV, LOVE, LOCAL: COFFEE

Interview with Royal Oak Coffee

By OLIVIA MUELLER
News Editor

It is 8:00 a.m on a Friday morning, and the town of Middlebury is just waking up and making the pilgrimage to Royal Oak.

Owner Matt Delia-Lobo has opened the shop, and now manning the bar with another barista and drinking a flat white. There is one customer tucked away in the corner by the window, writing in a journal.

Aless Delia- Lobo, Royal Oak's co-owner and Matt's wife, comes in with their daughter Frances to say hello and snack on a muffin before heading to daycare.

Regulars make time to greet the couple Matt and Aless as they trickle in. One woman orders a large cardamom vanilla latte with whole milk. The next, three 12 oz. americanos to go. NFour, nearly five years in, Royal Oak may seemsfeels like it has been in Middlebury forever, but is always evolving. Given the pandemic, the cyclical nature of operating in a college townn, and other curveballs like a summer of intense rain, the real constant for the Delia-LobosMatt and Aless throughout the entire existence of Royal Oak has been change itself.

The closure of Lost Monarch, another coffee shop owned by the Delia-Lobo's this past year marked one of the most recent shifts in the couple's Middlebury story.

"It's been surreal for me," Matt said about the closure. "The positive stuff has been, you know, just being able to float. Mainly, it was like, I'd like to see my daughter and be part of my family. But it was hard."

According to Matt, tThe overlapping schedules of Royal Oak and the former coffee bar in the Stone Mill made for unsustainably long days, sometimes over 12 hours. Despite the community's love and support for the spot, ultimately, he said taking a step back became the best option, especially with a young child.

"I don't have such an active role here anymore. So Matt was carrying a lot by himself," Aless said.

"It [Lost Monarch] was a hard shop to run because it was solo. It's unpredictable traffic. The decision was pretty much entirely ...like a mental health decision," Matt said.said Matt. Since closing Lost Monarch, the Delia-Lobos have been working to integrate itsthe rotational, experimental coffee offerings into with the more community-focused vision they had when founding ed Royal Oakk with.

"We intentionally made it more like a neighborhood shop," said Aless, so that more people will immediately find something appealing on the menu at the shop, making it more accessible. More people will just find something immediately that come in here. And more accessible," Aless saidsaid Aless.

"Our main goal was just... creating a community," said Matt said. "That's the success of it. Knowing everybody and having people come." Ownership gives the Delia-Lobos control over the environment they cultivate in a way that was impossible in their past experience as baristas at coffee shops in Boston.

"It's this central nervous system kind of community that I've always wanted... out with a coffee shop," Matt said.said Matt. "We've just been able to cultivate a space here. We feel genuinely connected to the community through here, like we've made, like, lifelong friends."

The Delia-Lobos prioritize genuine connection when customers come in rather than the rush to pay and leave. "The goal is you feel like you came to our house and we made you a coffee," Matt said. said Matt.

It's a business with goals outside of profit. A busy coffee shop? "Minus that weird, really intense capitalism part," said Aless said .

Of course, there havehas to be businessa transactions to make it all work. But for Matt, his true success is found in sharing his it is a passion for coffee with others and sharing that with others that is his true success. "We're literally just doing this because this is our thing. It's like when you ask musicians or artists, they're like, oh no, I don't have a choice. I'm not trying to make it big," said Matt said.

The closure of Lost Monarch has meant an opportunity to hone in on Royal Oak's core operations and think about future expansion. Coffee education is onean area that the Delia-Lobos are excited to expand offerings in after receiving customer feedback and requests.

With the end of longer summer hours, there is time in Royal Oak's fall schedule to run coffee courses after the shop closes for the afternoon. Potential subject areas include home brew, coffee tasting, latte art, pour overs, and more.

Aless has previous experience teaching coffee education courses during her time as a barista in Boston, including a class on coffee tasting. "I've done a how to taste coffee class.," said Aless of her past experience teaching educational courses. "It's really fun because coffee... is the thing that has the most flavors out of any other , like, thing in the world. And it blows people's minds,", or just at least it blows my mind in front of people, and I hope that they like that,." Aless said.

"It is fun to set up courses," said Matt. But accessibility is also top of mind when designing education opportunities, including payment models. What is the Royal Oak vision? "Sliding scale stuff. Like, if you can swing it... this is the value of this thing," said Matt. The Delia-Lobos wants to emphasize the iterative, experimental nature of brewing coffee that keeps every day fresh and exciting.

"That's making coffee in a nutshell. It's just like these incremental changes," Matt said Matt. "That's why I can do it forever. It's just a puzzle, like another exercise, like using as much of your brain as possible."

Royal Oak is open Monday through Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.. It is located at 30 Seymour Street.

Olivia Mueller / The Middlebury Campus

Middlebury Natural Foods Co-Op embraces its fall season

By MADELEINE KAPTEIN
Local Editor

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Madeleine Kaptein / The Middlebury Campus

Life after graduating

Op-Ed

Lauren Gemery *is a Middlebury graduate and member of the class of 2023.*

When you were in first grade, you probably went on to second grade without much thought. And from second to third and all the way through elementary, middle and high school. What's crazy about the first roughly 18 years of your life is that you go to school... and that's all. Maybe you're involved in some extracurriculars, like sports or clubs, or an afterschool job, but, generally, your focus is on being a student. Senior year of high school rolls around and some people decide they've had enough, but many students today decide to go on to college. So you keep plugging along through four more years of college until suddenly you're sleep deprived and giddy walking across a stage in a black gown trying to squint through the sun and not drop your diploma and cane. Or at least that was my graduation experience.

In the chaos of senior week, graduation and move-out, it took a while for the dust to settle on the end of my time at Middlebury. People gave me a lot of advice about graduating college: "Just have fun!", "Move somewhere new!", "Go travel!". All of this was well-intentioned advice, but none of it really prepared me for life after college. The only honest perspective I received was from a young professional I was connected with through a class project. In an email correspondence, she wrote: "Spring senior year I was feeling what I called 'the void' of after college — I knew I didn't want to go back to school right away but I didn't have a clear next step." Back in January when I received this email, I had no idea that this sentence would perfectly capture my own experience as well. Imagine blasting music in your car and suddenly the battery dies. It's so silent it rings in your ears and hollows out your chest. You're sitting there feeling a little embarrassed and disoriented. That's the void.

I could see it creeping in and around me even before graduation, so I distracted myself by taking a job leading first to third graders through the woods for the whole summer. I was too busy pointing out salamanders and preventing kids from pocketing slugs to think about the fact that I had no idea what came next. Why had none of my older friends warned me about this 'void'? Why had no one told me how hard it is to make decisions about your future? For some of you, I'm sure this feeling is not relatable. But for everyone who, like me, has no idea what they want to do after college: it will be okay. I'm not promising it will be easy or fun all the time, but something will work out. And maybe you need to take some time off. That's okay, too! Taking time and space to reflect on what you want, what makes you happy and what drives you is much better than diving right into a "real" job that you realize you hate. But if that happens, that's okay, too! Changing your mind on what you want is allowed. I already have friends who have jobs that are wildly unrelated to their majors in college. Just because you graduated from Middlebury doesn't mean you need to immediately have some high paying job or prestigious research experience.

The other aspect that made graduating seem so daunting was the idea of leaving peers, friends and all the places I've spent the past four years. I figured I couldn't return to Middlebury until my five year reunion because otherwise I would seem 'washed up.' There, I was wrong again. I'm writing an article for The Campus for the first time, after graduating! I'm already planning to come back either for the Knoll Anniversary or to cheer on frisbee games because those important parts of my college experience don't stop being important just because I graduated.

I'm not telling you about the 'void' to scare you. I'm writing what would've helped a younger me. Even a three-months-younger me. I'm writing what I wish people had told me about what it's like to leave Middlebury. And that's not to say that everyone's experience while here or leaving is the same, but I can't be the only one who is terrified of deciding my future all while clumsily finding my way after graduating. There are times that are scary and hard, and there are also times of joy and laughter. In the grand scheme of life, you are still young and have so much time to explore.

COURTESY PHOTO

Navigating Middlebury traffic amidst a very soggy summer

Op-Ed

Sophia Afsar-Keshmiri *is a member of the class of 2024 and an opinions editor for The Campus.*

My small hometown in upstate New York is one with a mighty sprawl through winding avenues of pines, up and over hills and alongside mountains. Neighborhoods, grocery stores and restaurants are awkward distances from one another without sidewalks in between.

Needless to say, it's less-than-walkable.

The brave souls that do bike or walk the just-too-long-to-walk but just-too-short-to-drive distances traverse the narrow shoulder. With cars whizzing by, more often than not above the mostly 45, 40 and 35 miles per hour speed limits, they tiptoe the white line barrier between road and road-turned-makeshift-sidewalk.

Traffic is isolated to the long morning drop off and after-school pick up lines managed by crossing guards and recently updated traffic lights to ensure a liquid flow; plus construction projects and the occasional tractor slowly puttering back to its origins.

Having grown up in a town with these characteristics, one of the unexpected joys of my summer was living right in the heart of Middlebury with everything within a short walking distance and the same small-town sounds filling my ears each day.

All of my most frequent destinations — work, Shaw's and campus — were minutes from my door by foot. And even my less-trodden stops were just around the corner: the Vermont Book Shop for perusing, Little Seed Coffee Roasters for caffeinating and the Post Office for mailing.

Ironically and unexpectedly considering the size of Middlebury, my move from the teeny tiny campus to the proportionally teeny tiny town resulted in a personal transformation of sorts. Possibly a testament to my terribly timid driving, the town of Middlebury has made me a more aggressive driver.

Do not be fooled by Middlebury's size! Underestimating the difficulties of its traffic could lead to minutes wasted while attempting a low-visibility and lightless left turn, or missing one of its scattered and unusually placed "one way" signs.

These streets can often require the nimblest and trickiest of driving maneuvers. I performed a number of three (two-to-six) point turns, and my own modified version of parallel parking on the street (into spots that most would determine could be easily pulled into).

The characteristics of Middlebury's traffic infrastructure is undoubtedly unconventional; the town touts an interesting intersection between the Co-Op, the Middlebury Inn and Merchants Row. The three businesses make the points of what I consider a traffic triangle, a deviation of the more popular traffic circle, a light where you can go left on red and drive on? a few scattered one way streets, I generally dreaded the rare occasions in which I found myself opening the door, turning the ignition and driving away in my trusty silver Subaru Legacy.

What more often than not came next was a choice between attempting a light-less left-hand turn and patiently waiting for the cars with less than ideal visibility to go by, or taking an inconvenient right with a slightly longer and less direct route.

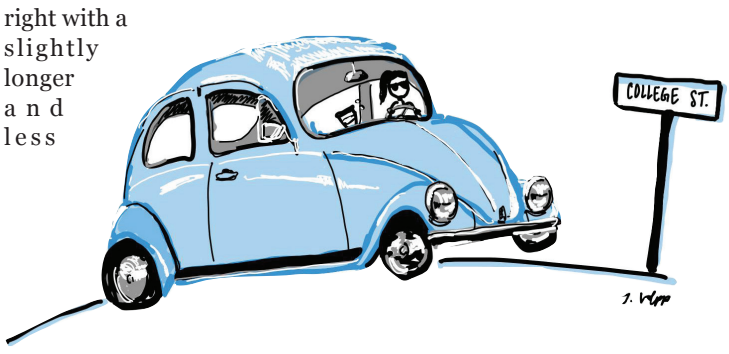
Historically a more timid driver who cautiously waits to turn right at any intersection, I even hesitate to go right on red (I firmly believe it is a choice and there is no shame in choosing not to), so after minutes of patiently waiting for my turn to come, I more often than not shifted tactics, accepted defeat and chose the latter option.

But even that inconvenient right hand turn proved challenging at times. Depending on the time of day, the hustle and bustle of Middlebury's workforce sped by me, leaving little room to squeak in the line, as walkers and bikers also complicated my easier-option maneuver.

Needless to say, my hand was forced, and I embraced Middlebury's quirky driving characteristics.

I don't mean to mischaracterize my driving. I wouldn't say I'm an aggressive driver; just a more aggressive driver.

And my newfound confidence is nowhere near that necessary to take on any New York City Streets or the New Jersey Turnpike. However, I can confidently say I am prepared to conquer the roads, turns and quirks of any small-to-midsize-town's traffic infrastructure. Even the Middlebury traffic triangle.



Super seniors are awesome

Op-Ed

Will Reed *is a member of the class of 2023.5 and a news editor for The Campus.*

I am finally a Super Senior Feb at Middlebury. This term once felt distant — almost surreal. It hovered on the horizon, a bit like some sort of promised land. To be honest, when I first heard the phrase as a bright-eyed Baby Feb three and a half years ago, it sounded like something straight out of a riddle. What exactly is a "Super Senior," and what makes them so "super?" Honestly, I'm still figuring that out.

As hundreds of us Super Seniors embark on our final semester at Middlebury, we find ourselves in a unique limbo. Many of our peers graduated last May. Students who were a year younger in high school are graduating this May, just a semester after us. We're like a middle child caught between two worlds, simultaneously at the top and bottom of the collegiate hierarchy. It's bewildering, it's scary. It's an extended college journey that feels a bit like being stuck in a never-ending TV show.

Let's not forget about the existential crises that come with being a Super Senior. We've spent so much time in academia that we've become experts in procrastination. We can debate the merits of different note-taking apps for hours while conveniently avoiding our actual assignments. We're so old — old enough to be college graduates, to be in the workforce, to drink! To vote! To sustain ourselves on our own! But we also are young — too young to be college graduates. To have a job with benefits. To lease an apartment (we still exist in the comfort of our Atwater suites).

I first stepped onto Middlebury's campus in February 2020, brimming with excitement, only to have the world slam on the brakes five and a half weeks later due to the pandemic. The next year and a half felt like a bizarre rollercoaster. I can't help but feel like I blacked out for most of it. For me, normal college life, whether that be academically or socially, truly began in the fall of 2021.

Now, having this final semester almost feels like a polite formality. But here's the twist I'm loving at the moment: I have an extra semester this spring to do as I please. I can waltz into the workforce, jet around the globe or simply soak up life's lessons in any way I see fit. And you can too. It's like a bonus round in the game of life, and I intend to play it to the hilt. And all of you Super Seniors should too. Ok?

You might be wondering, "What's the point of this opinion piece?" Well, here it is: Super Seniors possess a unique gift. We get to savor Middlebury as the eldest, the wisest and the most mature students on campus. We're essentially the Yodas of Middlebury College, offering sage advice and a sense of zen to our younger peers. Then, after a semester of basking in the glory, we have a special window to prepare ourselves for the world. It's a chance to mold ourselves into the best versions of who we aspire to be.

So, whether you're a Super Senior or not, cherish this time. It'll slip through your fingers before you realize it. Embrace the 'super' in you <3333333 and make the most of this distinctive chapter. Who knows, maybe being a Super Senior Feb isn't about being stuck in between; maybe it's about having the best of both worlds and the wisdom to appreciate it all.

How much money would it take for you to leave Middlebury this fall?

Editorial

The editorial represents the opinion of the Middlebury Campus Editorial Board.

The student body is now very familiar with Middlebury's pandemic-related over-enrollment issues. We have previously editorialized and reported on how the consistently larger-than-usual student body over the past three years has affected class size, dining hall lines, parking spaces and housing. Middlebury has taken numerous steps to manage over-enrollment, including purchasing the Inn on the Green and using the Breadloaf campus for upperclassmen housing.

But the latest solution seemed the most poorly planned yet: Middlebury offered $10,000 to the first 30 juniors and seniors who opted to take a voluntary leave of absence for the fall 2023 semester and J-term.

The email from Dean of Students Derek Doucet and Associate Dean of Students for Residential Life AJ Place informed juniors and seniors on July 31 of an "opportunity" that would, once again, enable the school "to accommodate a larger than usual number of returning students living on campus due to pandemic-related leaves."

While we appreciate that the administration is resorting to this incentive as a better alternative to more forced triples and housing students at Breadloaf, we feel that this program was ill-timed and poorly executed. The administration should have given students more time to ponder this important decision, better explained the gravity of taking the offer and mandated academic and career counseling for those who opted in. Even regardless of the timing and execution of the offer, paying students to take time off felt distasteful, to say the least.

If Middlebury were going to offer this incentive, we wish they had done so sooner than just six weeks before the first day of classes. The timing of the incentive forced students to rush to make the decision, rendering them unable to coherently weigh the pros and cons of taking the semester off. Doucet defended the timing in an earlier email to The Campus, stating that students have been deciding to take a semester off later into the summer in recent post-pandemic years, so they offered this incentive to help speed along the process of electing to take time off.

Interested students were given only until August 3 — a mere 4 days — to complete the Google Form application for the leave, which simply required the applicant's name, class year, ID number and an indication that their submission was binding. The form was live immediately, and the email stated that leaves were to be granted on a "first come, first served basis," which might have pressured students who were intrigued but not set on taking a leave of absence to apply in haste. Additionally, we believe that the form's specification that the decision to take the leave was binding was likely included so the college could get 30 committed students as soon as possible. The rushed nature of the form made it feel that the college was more focused on fixing its enrollment and housing issues than truly prioritizing students' best interests.

Taking time off is not a decision to be taken lightly, particularly as doing so impacts academic motivation, graduation time, job prospects and course options. It is a choice that must be discussed with family, friends, student deans and academic advisors, as well as one that requires financial planning. A mere 4 days to decide and the first come, first served nature of the application placed unnecessary pressure on students and did not give them enough time to fully consider the decision and its long-term consequences.

What's more, in the July 31 email, Doucet and Place did not point to or encourage academic or career counseling, nor did they make mention of resources for finding a job, internship, or experience for the fall. They also did not acknowledge the fact that a leave of absence is not always appropriate for everyone, a fact that was only pointed out in a later email from SGA on Aug. 1, which expressed concern for students who rely on the college for health services, health insurance or counseling.

The administration should have mandated students to speak with their deans and academic advisors before filling out the form. They also might have suggested that students meet with the Center for Careers and Internships or Middlebury alumni to brainstorm ideas for how they might spend their fall semester away. They could have increased flexibility by accepting credits from other institutions for students who still wanted to graduate on time.

Middlebury is seemingly an outlier in resorting to this solution to over-enrollment. From our research, only one other university, Virginia Tech, has offered such an incentive in response to over-enrollment in recent years. Middlebury's strategy resulted in a Forbes article entitled "No Room At The Dorm: As College Begins, Some Students Are Scrambling For Housing," which prominently featured the financial incentive and the ugly truth of how the college has "chipped away" at fall enrollment.

Offering a financial incentive for taking time off hurts the college's supposed goal of creating an equitable community, regardless of students' economic status. The incentive is greater for students for whom $10,000 means more — students receiving financial aid, students who make $13.18 an hour on work-study and students taking on significant loans to pay for college. According to an email Doucet wrote to The Campus last week, students from all socioeconomic backgrounds, those receiving full aid and those on no aid, as well as all types of students in between, applied and took advantage of this incentive. Nonetheless, payment still goes against Middlebury's ethos of being need-blind and welcoming to students of all socioeconomic statuses.

Such a drastic move is emblematic of a larger problem. As explained in the email from Doucet and Place, the college was poised to be exceptionally over-enrolled this semester. The unusually high number of leaves of absences taken during the Covid-19 pandemic contributed to just 420 students graduating last May, with double the normal amount of students set to graduate in February 2024. Additionally, since the pandemic, fall semesters have tended to be more crowded than spring semesters, due to the unusually large graduating Feb classes and larger numbers of students choosing to study abroad in the spring rather than the fall. Last year, the administration offered $2000 to any student planning to study abroad in spring 2024 and willing to switch their plans to study abroad fall 2023 instead.

Over-enrollment at Middlebury has proven to be more pervasive than a semester-long or year-long issue. Middlebury has been consistently over-enrolled since fall 2021 when they notoriously housed students at the Breadloaf campus — a 25 minute commute from the main Middlebury campus. Band-Aid solutions aside, we hope that Middlebury will manage its over-enrollment problem so that taking drastic steps, like asking students to take a voluntary leave of absence only a few weeks before the semester begins, is not necessary. If Middlebury is to manage a larger student body, it must expand its staff, faculty, campus spaces and housing in order to guarantee the same quality of experience students enjoyed when the school had only 2,500 students.

We are glad that Middlebury didn't resort to housing students at Breadloaf as they did in fall 2021 or put students in forced triples as many other colleges and universities did during the pandemic. We agree that in principle, taking a semester off from college can be an enriching and useful experience for students seeking to take a break or try something new. However, we are troubled that the over-enrollment problem had to become so dire in the first place. Paying students to take time off, like sending first years to Copenhagen, is contrary to the community-based, on-campus, liberal arts experience Middlebury advertises in admissions brochures. With severe over-enrollment and the band-aid solutions repeatedly used by the college, it is no doubt that Middlebury has changed significantly in the past few years. By offering the $10,000 incentive, Middlebury was asking students to accept money over the continuity of their education, all while forcing students to rush the decision and failing to offer or encourage the usage of resources — a bad look from an institution that supposedly promises four years of "a strong, diverse, and supportive community for living and learning."

A paper for the whole community

Notes from the desk

By Maggie Reynolds, Katie Futterman and Ryan McElroy

Dear Middlebury,

We are thrilled to see your heads burrowed between the pages of our newspaper once again.

We are writing to you as this year's Executive Team for The Campus, Middlebury's only student-run, editorially independent newspaper.

For the first time, the three of us are all students who have never known a Middlebury without Covid-19. Wide-eyed high schoolers at the time, we watched as the Middlebury community shut down suddenly in March 2020, and The Campus staff produced coverage of professors adapting to zoom classes, faculty/staff hiring freezes from their childhood bedrooms.

When we came to campus in fall 2020 and fall 2021, respectively, life at Middlebury included a variety of new pandemic-related complications. From adapted credit/no-credit policies to understaffing and housing at Breadloaf to address over enrollment, the issues relevant to our campus community, and, in turn, that The Campus covered, changed dramatically.

As we have returned to a new normal over the past year, the campus environment has allowed us to shift back toward our typical pre-pandemic coverage of in-person musical performances and community events in the town of Middlebury. Still, however, the issues of staff wages, over-enrollment and large class sizes remind us of the changes to Middlebury over the past couple of years.

Last year, The Campus made it a priority to bring the staff experience at Middlebury to light, reporting on issues such as the new staff compensation skill matrix and chronic understaffing in Dining Services, Davis Family Library and International Student and Scholar Services. We plan to continue this work of holding students accountable for any disrespect and mistreatment of staff while also highlighting the inadequacies of the compensation system for the workers who allow our college community to function as it does.

We checked in on students, too, with Zeitgeist 5.0, chronicling whether they're happy, having sex and following the honor code — turns out most of us are actually using unauthorized aid, after all — but we didn't use ChatGPT to write this op-ed, we swear! We promise to continue using our platform as a finger to the pulse of our campus, representing the genuine experiences of students.

Last year our staff examined the college's relationship to the town of Middlebury as well, particularly as student enrollment grew, and so too did the number of students living in town, causing clashes with neighbors. This year, we will continue to serve as a critical point of connection — investigating the relationships between the administration, students, faculty and the greater Middlebury community. At a time when many students feel a lack of transparency in our community, we promise to help bridge the gap and be a newspaper for all people of the college and town who will read our pages this year.

Our predecessors held the administration accountable when they failed to communicate what later turned out to be a hoax call of an active shooter. They used their editorial platform to call for compensating student organization leaders, respecting the spaces we live in and the custodial staff we rely on and increasing transparency about where our tuition dollars go. Our weekly editorials will continue to advocate for transparency in our community, hold the college accountable and propose realistic solutions to our most pressing issues.

But it doesn't all have to be so serious. We also want our newspaper to reflect your genuine interests and where you find joy on campus. Whether that entails how fake weddings have invaded Middlebury's social scene, perusing our weekly crosswords or telling us your plan to return panthers to the forests of Vermont, we are committed to highlighting the funny, adventurous and entertaining parts of living at Middlebury for four years.

This paper is entirely student-driven, and none of our weekly coverage would be possible without active engagement from students, staff, faculty and community members. We encourage anyone with a story to email us at campus@middlebury.edu or to submit an anonymous tip on our website. To students, regardless of whether you're a first-year or Super Senior Feb, we encourage you to try out writing for The Campus — speaking from personal experience, it might turn out to be one of the most rewarding experiences you will have at Middlebury.

Our hope is that this edition of The Campus and the subsequent 21 issues over this next year will report on what you, our readers, are currently talking about, as well as what we all should be talking about.

We plan to bring you coverage of a diverse range of issues at the college and in town; all we ask is for you to consider picking up a copy of our paper each Thursday morning.

The Middlebury Campus

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More information about the paper and its submission policies can be found online at www.middleburycampus.com.

The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. The Campus welcomes letters to the editor at 250 words or less, or opinions submissions at 800 words or less.

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The Middlebury Campus

HI, MIDDLE-BARBIE!

By ACADIA KLEPEIS
Arts & Culture Editor

Unquestionably the movie of the summer, Greta Gerwig's "Barbie" supplied that oft-sought but rarely-found commodity: crowd appeal.

On my walk to the Middlebury Marquis, I spotted college kids, under-tens and middle-aged parents alike — including my own father — threading through downtown in bright pink outfits. It's a rare but welcome thrill to be able to identify your co-attendees outside the theater. I can't remember the last time I dressed up for a movie, but it was probably when I wore an apron to my "Sound of Music"-themed birthday. Although Barbie's rival, "Oppenheimer," didn't arrive in Middlebury until August, foreclosing the spectacle of a "Barbenheimer" double feature, multiple Barbie and Barbenheimer-themed parties on campus revealed that enthusiasm levels for the event were still high. By day and by night, having even so much as a color in common created a preordained sense of community among strangers that was surprising and fun.

In a season equally marked by Taylor Swift's $2.2 billion-earning Eras Tour, "Barbie" offered an outlet to those of us whose Eras experience was limited to Instagram. Beyond the economic parallels, Swift's concert and Gerwig's film both offer their predominantly-female audience a cathartic celebration. For example, Swift's what-if song "The Man" and the much-quoted climactic speech delivered by Gloria, played by America Ferrera, (America Ferrera) in Gerwig's film each use a highly stylized platform to speak to the pressures of modern womanhood. On a more basic level, the simple joy of a themed event with a pre-marked calendar date made it seem like summer had squeezed an extra holiday between July Fourth and Labor Day.

With so much of the "Barbie" experience occurring before or after showtime, the film itself almost gets overlooked in the rush of Barbiecore. It pays, however, to consider what happened between the opening montage and the credits.

For the unindoctrinated, "Barbie" follows stereotypical Barbie, played by (Margot Robbie) on her journey from Barbie Land to the real world. Outside of her Barbie bubble, where the women have all the power, Barbie is confronted with the double-standards faced by actual 21st-century women. Ultimately, she must take action or allow Barbie Land to be overruled by the patriarchy-crazed Kens.

I had a wonderful time at my Marquis screening. The movie's blinding aesthetic was exactly as advertised, and the star-studded cast rose to the expectations. Robbie's stereotypical Barbie had us rooting for her despite her naïveté, and Ken, played by (Ryan Gosling,) managed to be simultaneously likable and ridiculous — no easy feat.

Some may have been turned off by the self-aware feminist comedy, feeling that it was too on-the-nose, but I found it funny and refreshing. For example, in the film's most talked-about joke, the narrator, played by (Helen Mirren) makes a tongue-in-cheek comment about how Robbie is miscast if you want to comment on unrealistic beauty standards. Marquis attendees of all ages burst into laughter. It is tempting to critique the film's simultaneous celebration and critique of Barbie as noncommittal, but ultimately this very quality is what makes it such a crowd-pleaser.

One unsung aspect of the film that I felt was unsung was, in fact, the singing.

How many social commentaries also claim to be musicals? While musical was certainly not "Barbie"'s primary classification, Ken's genre-defying rock ballad, "I'm Just Ken," turns the film in a new direction with its parody of musical theatre's typical 11 o'clock number. The song currently has more than 65 million streams on Spotify.

Although music is highlighted elsewhere in the film, including during Lizzo's introductory "Pink" and the elaborate choreography to Dua Lipa's "Dance the Night," "I'm Just Ken" marks a break from more diegetic songs that are used to define the setting. In contrast, Ken's solo moment is the film's most overtly non-diegetic moment as a main character sings his thoughts.

Noah Baumbach, Gerwig's partner and a "Barbie" co-writer, has introduced late-stage songs in past work. In 2019's "Marriage Story,", featuring an otherwise wordless soundtrack by Randy Newman, the two protagonists each perform a number from Stephen Sondheim's "Company!," shedding new light on their emotional situations. Baumbach's method of exposing internal thought through song is unconventional in non-musicals but can be used to great effect. While it has a sobering, sympathy-inducing effect in "Marriage Story," Ken's "West Side Story"-esque dance battle toes the line between mocking and humanizing him. This reinforces the film's desire to have things both ways. Personally, I would appreciate seeing more exploration of this kind across non-musicals.

My qualms with the film, if I must mention them, were the following:

I didn't like the ending. Sure, the buzzer-beater gynecologist joke made me laugh, but I am not sure I wanted Barbie to become human. She loses her magic if she becomes just like us. The Harry-and-Dumbledore-at-King's-Cross-esque unreality and Barbie's subsequent transformation were sweet (the montage certainly had theatergoers tearing up), but after she spent a movie trying to fix her homeland, I was sad to see Barbie abandon it.

My other qualm was that I didn't grasp the role of the Mattel corporation in this movie. The bumbling execs lived up to that adjective but didn't add much to the story, and the degree of their power over their creation was left unclear. Their role could have used tightening up or eliminating.

The news about Gerwig's record-breaking box office numbers which earned her the title highest-grossing U.S. female director, is delightful. I certainly would watch this movie again. Sweet with a kick, if "Barbie" were a beverage, it would be strawberry lemonade. What could be more perfect for a hot summer's day?offer their predominantly-female audience a cathartic celebration. For example, Swift's what-if song "The Man" and the much-quoted climactic speech delivered by Gloria, played by America Ferrera, (America Ferrera) in Gerwig's film each use a highly stylized platform to speak to the pressures of modern womanhood. On a more basic level, the simple joy of a themed event with a pre-marked calendar date made it seem like summer had squeezed an extra holiday between July Fourth and Labor Day.

COURTESY PHOTO

Middlebury Performing Arts Series: Fall 2023 at a glance

By MAGGIE BRYAN
Senior Arts & Culture Editor

For its 104th season, the Performing Arts Series is offering a diverse lineup, from a string quartet hailing from Scandinavia to a storytelling series organized by a group of Middlebury students.

Each year, the Mahaney Arts Center (MAC) hosts the Middlebury Performing Arts Series, bringing an impressive selection of performances from around the world to the Middlebury community. The series began in 1919, when college trustees sought to elevate the quality of entertainment available to Middlebury students. At the time, The Campus noted that the series would ease the struggle of being so far from Broadway. After over a century, the series' mission hasn't strayed from its origin, and the Performing Arts Series still aims to enhance Middlebury's curriculum and spark creativity and cultural exposure through world-class performances. For its 104th season, the Performing Arts Series is offering a diverse lineup, from a string quartet hailing from Scandinavia to a storytelling series organized by a group of Middlebury students. TNeedless to say, tThis semester's offerings are worth marking the calendars for a trip to the MAC.

Starting off the season strong, the Emerson String Quartet will be visiting Middlebury on Sept. 30 as part of itstheir farewell tour. Formed in 1976, the quartet has since collected nine Grammy Awards and was acclaimed by Time Magazine as "America's greatest quartet." The quartet is aare veterans of the Middlebury Performing Arts Series, and this will be the group's 33rd annual visit to the college.

Next up is Dreamers' Circus, a classical-adjacent Scandinavian ensemble. This Nordic trio prides itself on transcending the boundaries of genre and strives to create music that does not lend itself to classification. Dreamers' Circus first visited Middlebury in March 2020 before the Covid-19 pandemic, so their return is long-awaited.

On October 20, the series continues with a visit from Mahani Teave, a pianist and humanitarian from Rapa Nui (Easter Island). Teave famously pursues environmental activism and music education work as a musician – she even built a music school for children in Rapa Nui. Teave's story is documented in the film "Song of Rapa Nui," which will be screened at the MAC on October 19.

The season's mid-way point is marked by Cocoon, an annual storytelling event that is an adaptation of the Middlebury classic, Moth-Up. Like Moth-Up, Cocoon draws members of the Middlebury community to tell true stories live and without notes. Yet instead of Moth-Up's historic home, the Gamut Room, Cocoon is hosted in the MAC and draws from a wider range of storytellers. This year's storytellers will include Beckett Pintair '24.5, Youness Cheboubi '24, and Middlebury library staff member Mark Salveit, all sharing stories on the theme of "Playing the Long Game."

Like its predecessor Cocoon, the next performance of the series is also created by a member of the Middlebury community. Premiering on November 9, "What We Ask of Flesh" is the work of INSPIRIT Dance, an ensemble founded by Associate Professor of Dance Christal Brown. The dance uses the personal stories of its cast to explore the body as a vessel for human complexity. The show also includes an interactive component, allowing audience members to contribute their memories and ancestors' names to a scroll, which will travel with INSPIRIT on their tour.

On November 11, the series continues with another Scandinavian string group, the Danish String Quartet. The quartet visited Middlebury in 2017, when they were met with a standing ovation before intermission. They have been playing together for over 20 years and today are renowned as one of the best quartets of our time. Coincidentally, one of the quartet's members, Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen, is also a member of Dreamers' Circus.

To conclude the fall series, Brandee Younger Trio will make its first visit to Vermont. During her 15-year career as a harpist, Brandee Younger has worked to push the boundaries of harp music. Her music innovatively walks the line between classical and jazz styles, putting a contemporary twist on an iconic instrument. Last year she became the first Black woman to be nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Instrumental Composition. In addition to breaking demographic stereotypes, Younger has played a role in transitioning harp music to the digital age.

The Performing Arts Series will continue in the spring, featuring many more string acts, a vocal ensemble, a collection of ballads from the Pacific Islands, and even a reading of historical, handwritten sex letters. The Middlebury Performing Arts Series has been a tradition of our campus for over a century and continues to enhance the culture of the Middlebury community. Whether as an escape from the stresses of academia or an enhancement to one's academic pursuits, the Performing Arts Series offers something for each member of the Middlebury community and begs a visit from each of us this semester.

Courtesy Photo

The Henry Sheldon Museum: A repository of Vermont history

By TULIP LARSON
Arts & Culture Editor

Nestled in a pocket of Middlebury just off of Main Street, the Henry Sheldon Museum is often overlooked by Middlebury College students. However, passersby should not be fooled by its unassuming brick exterior: – the Sheldon Museum is a Middlebury jewel that would be a shame to miss.

Founded in 1884 by Henry L. Sheldon, the Sheldon Museum is the oldest community museum –– a museum dedicated to serving and preserving its surrounding community — – in the country. Born in 1821 to a prominent Vermont family, Sheldon was born in 1821 to a prominent Vermont family, and moved to Middlebury when he was 20. An eccentric man, Sheldon became a passionate collector in his 50s and in 1882, purchased the boarding house he was living in to house his burgeoning collection.

Sheldon enjoyed collecting everything from mummies to ancient coins, but his true passion lay in the preservation of Vermont history. Sheldon kept every Middlebury-related item he could get his hands on, including clothing, newspapers, books and furniture. As he explains in an 1881 diary entry, his mission was to benefit future generations by preserving the works of Vermont pioneers. From perusing the museum's collection, it is clear that Sheldon's deep dedication to Middlebury's history paid off. Historians have even called Middlebury "the best-documented community in America" thanks to Sheldon's tireless efforts.

Today, Sheldon's legacy survives thanks to the tireless efforts of the museum's staff. Head archivist Eva Garcelon-Hart has overseen the Stewart-Swift Research Center archival collections since 2011. No stranger to Vermont, she previously worked at the Vermont State Archives , and the Vermont Folklife Center. Many of Garcelon-Hart's projects aim to highlight marginalized groups, such as "Charity & Sylvia: A Weybridge Couple," an exhibit centered around a silhouette portrait of a lesbian couple believed to be the first artistic depiction of a same-sex couple in America. Garcelon-Hart's most recent exhibit, "Artists in the Archives Unseen Neighbors: Community, History & Collage" explored similar themes, inviting collage artists from across the world to select items –– photographs, diary entries, newspaper clippings, and more –– from the Stewart-Swift archives to create a collage that highlighted previously underrepresented communities in Vermont and beyond.

On Sept.ember 8th, Garcelon-Hart's newest exhibit, "From Homespun to Couture: Fashion in Historic Middlebury," debuted in the Walter Cerf Gallery at the museum. As the title indicates, this exhibit highlights the shifting landscape of 19th-century fashion in Middlebury, as the fashion norm switched from homemade to store-bought. The exhibit features a plethora of impressive artifacts, including shop signs from historic Middlebury clothing stores, photographs of Middlebury residents and 19th-century fashion catalogs, givingthat give visitors a glimpse into the clothing industry and popular fashion trends of the time.

Along with Garcelon-Hart, Allison LaCroix –– the recently-appointed collections manager at the Sheldon Museum –– has made an impressive foray into the curatorial world with three exhibits: "Variety Sew: A Sampling of Textile Tools and Devices," "Stellar Stitching: 19th Century Vermont Samplers," and "Recent Acquisitions." A Vermont native, LaCroix is a Middlebury graduate who has spent the past 10 years working at various museums in the DC area, most recently as the cCollections mManager for the Heurich House Museum. In her exhibit "Variety Sew: A Sampling of Textile Tools and Devices," LaCroix deftly distills hundreds of textile-related artifacts housed in the museum into an intriguing retrospective on the various tools used to make textiles in Vermont in the 18th and 19th centuries –– from spindles to looms to singer sewing machines. LaCroix's other current exhibit, "Stellar Stitching," takes a look at 19th-century Vermont needlework samplers made by young girls as an educational tool. LaCroix's final exhibit, "Recent Acquisitions," highlights the newest additions to the Sheldon Museum's collection, featuring historical portraits, Vermont-crafted cabinets, and more.

The newest addition to the museum's ranks, Barbara Rathburn, comes to the Sheldon Museum after many years as director of collections at the Shelburne Museum. in Shelburne, Vt.Vermont. In her new role as Visitor Services Coordinator, Rathburn is working tirelessly to reach a wider audience and bring more visitors to the museum.

The Sheldon Museum's robust volunteer crew, headed by President of the Sheldon Museum, Lucinda Cockrell, takes on hundreds of crucial research and organizational projects responsible for keeping the museum's mission alive and well.

Although Middlebury may feel like a temporary home to many students, the Sheldon Museum provides a medium to connect more deeply with this unique location. Whether you're visiting an exhibit or doing research for a paper at the state-of-the-art research center, the Sheldon Museum is a resource not to be ignored. As a community museum, it's our duty to help preserve Middlebury's history just as Henry Sheldon did 150 years ago.

"OPPENHEIMER"

By JACK TORPEY
Arts & Culture Editor

Magnum opus is a term that has been used to describe "Oppenheimer." Coming from Latin for "great work," it is a mark of acclaim used to designate the single most important piece of an artist's career. Having a single opus to one's name is rare, but even fewer artists attain the contradictory status of having multiple works asserted as their magnum opus — in their case, magna opera. In film, Alfred Hitchcock and Steven Spielberg are two figures who occupy this space of rare renown. How can you isolate "Vertigo" as Hitchcock's sole magnum opus when he also made "Psycho"? Spielberg directed the timeless blockbusters "Jaws" and "Raiders of the Lost Ark," but can either of those films be elevated as his "great work" without slighting the accomplishments that are "Saving Private Ryan" and "Schindler's List"? Now, after releasing his historical epic about the father of the atomic bomb, Christopher Nolan has introduced a new critical dilemma: Can "Oppenheimer" truly be the magnum opus of the director behind "The Dark Knight" and "Interstellar"? The answer depends on how strictly you adhere to the dictionary definition.

Yes, "Oppenheimer" is that good. It is the best film of the year, the best of the decade so far and somehow one of the most impressive entries in the career of a director who has already given audiences so many modern classics. The hype around the film ("Barbie"-adjacent or otherwise) is real, and anyone who has not yet seen it will just have to buy a ticket to understand why.

Nolan's film chronicles J. Robert Oppenheimer's life from his time as a brilliant but self-destructive American physics student studying abroad in Europe to his role as the world's foremost authority on atomic energy policy in the postwar years. Between those two chapters lies the dramatic center of the film: Oppenheimer's service as the director of the Los Alamos laboratory, the scientific headquarters of the Manhattan Project. It was during this race to build the atomic bomb from 1942 to 1945 that Robert Oppenheimer formed the relationships and made the decisions that would decide the course of his future, providing Nolan with rich material to tell a complex story of duty, consequences and unrequited patriotism.

Chief among its merits, "Oppenheimer" offers a masterclass in acting. Every role in the expansive ensemble cast, from the titular physicist (Cillian Murphy) to Secretary of War Henry Stimson (James Remar), is inhabited by its actor with complete conviction. Among the supporting players, Emily Blunt and Robert Downey Jr. are especially striking as Oppenheimer's wife and nemesis, respectively. Blunt stirringly evokes the fragility and strength of Kitty Oppenheimer, who struggled with severe bouts of alcoholism and depression but fiercely defended her husband against the smear tactics of his political enemies. The greatest of such enemies was Lewis Strauss, the Washington elite and chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission whose personal and political animosity towards Oppenheimer led him to orchestrate the revocation of the scientist's security clearance. Downey is electric in his portrayal of Strauss, seething with quiet resentment in some scenes and crumbling into embittered rage in others. His performance as the villain in this historical tragedy is yet more proof that he is one of the finest actors of his day, and it would not be a shock if the "Iron Man" star wins Oscars gold for the role.

Other performances in the film by major actors like Matt Damon, Florence Pugh and Gary Oldman are all deserving of praise. But any discussion of the acting in "Oppenheimer" must focus on Cillian Murphy, Nolan's longtime character actor who finally received his shot at being the leading man in what is arguably the director's most ambitious film. Murphy carries every minute of the film's three-hour running time, balancing — and blending — scenes of introspection and assertiveness, arrogance and timidity, always holding true to Oppenheimer's famously paradoxical nature. The highlight of Murphy's performance comes shortly after the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Standing behind a podium in a packed gymnasium before his Los Alamos colleagues, the crowd rabid with the thrill of their achievement and eager for a speech from their director, Oppenheimer declares, "It is too early to determine what the results of the bombing might have been. But I'm sure the Japanese didn't like it!" The crowd erupts, and the smile on the conquering scientist's face slowly turns to a wince. Murphy dissolves into paralyzed nausea as the scene progresses, the actor wordlessly animating Oppenheimer's moral pain in what is easily the most unsettling sequence in Nolan's filmography.

Turning to Nolan himself, "Oppenheimer" sees the director synthesizing 25 years worth of writing and filmmaking craft to create a marvel of cinematic technique. He works from a multilayered script whose passages click into place like puzzle pieces yet remain deeply humanistic, a literary wire walk that he similarly pulled off in "The Prestige" and "Inception." He tells this story of existential threat on the largest possible canvas, shooting and projecting in his preferred IMAX 70 mm film format. Most notably, the director calls back to the visual style of "Memento," his 2000 indie hit, by using a combination of color and black-and-white photography to delineate sequences presented from Oppenheimer's and Strauss' separate points of view. Nolan is Hollywood's reigning champion of crosscutting, and it is when he deploys that device to rapidly cut between the color and black-and-white sequences that "Oppenheimer" really begins to feel like something special. That's because as Nolan whips us back and forth through time and shifts our perspective on the drama, all while maintaining narrative thrust and thematic unity, we feel that one intangible thing that separates this particular filmmaker from his peers: momentum. Better than any living director, Christopher Nolan can grip the audience's interest from the first frame and gradually heighten it until the final cut to black, delivering a sensation of runaway intensity that makes for a wholly enthralling narrative experience. It is for this reason that "Oppenheimer," a three-hour-long biopic dominated by dialogue, feels like a thriller. And that is why it will be criminal if Nolan does not win the Academy Award for his latest magnum opus.

With so much of the "Barbie" experience occurring before or after showtime, the film itself almost gets overlooked in the rush of Barbiecore. It pays, however, to consider what happened between the opening montage and the credits.

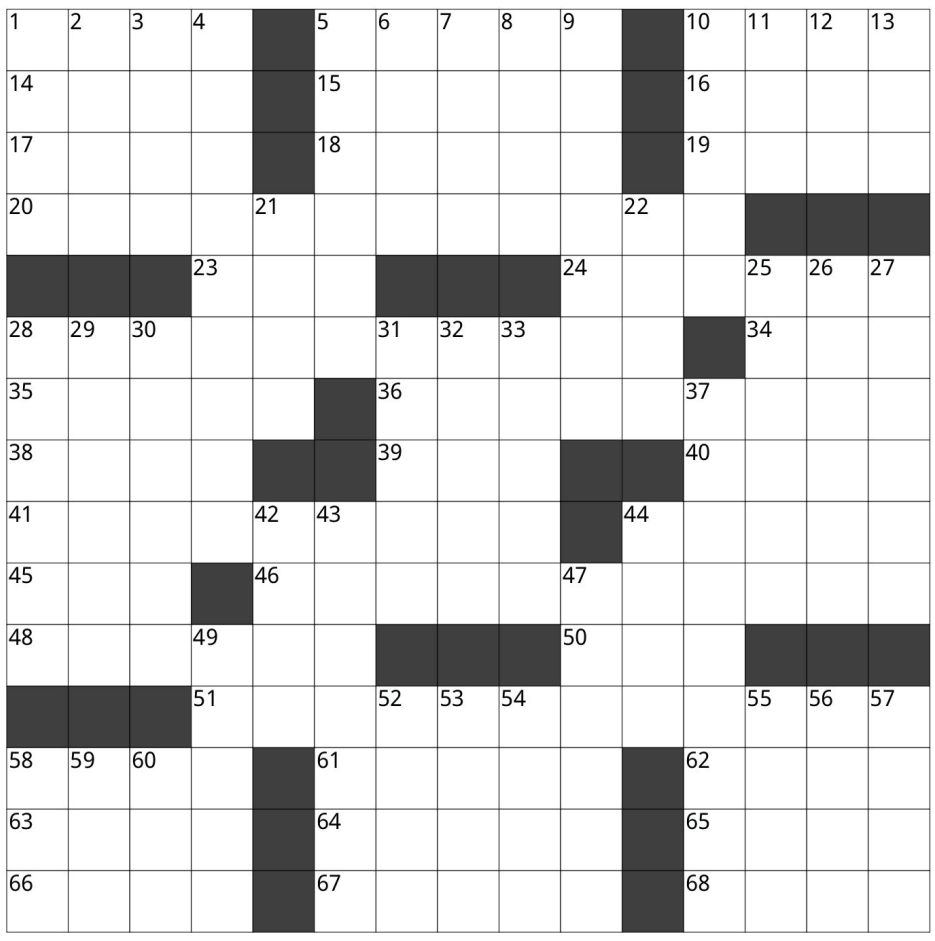
For the unindoctrinated, "Barbie" follows stereotypical Barbie, played by (Margot Robbie) on her journey from Barbie Land to the real world. Outside of her Barbie bubble, where the women have all the power, Barbie is confronted with the double-standards faced by actual 21st-century women. Ultimately, she must take action or allow Barbie Land to be overruled by the patriarchy-crazed Kens.

I had a wonderful time at my Marquis screening. The movie's blinding aesthetic was exactly as advertised, and the star-studded cast rose to the expectations. Robbie's stereotypical Barbie

We Think We Know What You Did Last Summer

ACROSS
1 Sheep-herding pig
5 Sweetener originally from India
10 Payment option that is not made of paper in the States, contrary to popular belief
14 Anthem opener
15 In ___ (unborn)
16 Informal greeting
17 Bog down
18 Tropical ray
19 Drug one might take to treat ADHD, for short
20 *Did you dress up for this summer's hot pink explosion?*
23 Honest prez
24 Haley Joel ___, of "The Sixth Sense"
28 *You might have experienced the genius of this summer's woman for all Eras?*
34 In the, in 35-Across
35 Rome home
36 An eye for an eye, say
38 "Don't look ___"
39 ER workers
40 Middle name for James Jones and James Carter
41 Question asked before a departure
44 John Grisham's "___ to Kill"
45 Fire residue
46 *Maybe you watched this summer's acrobatic GOAT win her eighth U.S. National Championship?*
48 Declared
50 [Not my mistake]
51 *Or did you follow this summer's most striking group?*
58 Russian parliament
61 First gymnast to land a perfect 10, ___ Comăneci
62 Buddhist leader
63 Impossible-y villainous actor Morales
64 Sack material
65 Food thickener
66 Number 10 on the periodic table
67 Does counterparts
68 One of two castle pieces?

DOWN
1 Utterly fail
2 Home to 8 of the 10 most populous cities in the world
3 Cancelled star of "Roseanne"
4 Took a gander
5 Caned senator
6 Home state of Butch Cassidy
7 CRISPR target
8 Intro. drawing class
9 Stray away
10 Cast a spell on
11 Assist
12 Pink Floyd frontman Barrett
13 Horse food
21 TikTok teen, maybe
22 This, in Toledo
25 Involve
26 "Don't come ___"
27 King and Bishop, for two
28 Headwear for some Toddlers
29 Swear (to)
30 Motorcycle or piano company
31 Longtime controversial senator Thurmond
32 Plennie ___, who walked backwards from Santa Monica, California to Istanbul, Turkey
33 "Let's do this!"
37 ___ Formation, brainstem network that neuro majors should know
42 Flanders river
43 Old-timey news
44 "It's not ___ deal!"
47 Incoming assignments for most Midd students
49 Finn and Sawyer author
52 Without slack
53 ___ Mode, "Incredibles" clothier
54 Call
55 Jafar's parrot in "Aladdin"
56 LOL-esque response
57 ___ Brandon, Biden meme
58 Bear cave
59 Purpose
60 ___ Zedong



FALL SPORTS PREVIEWS

COURTESY PHOTO

Donovan Wood '24.5 will be one of Middlebury's athletes to watch this fall. Courtesy photo by Kevin Wood.

BY SPORTS SECTION EDITORS

Women's Soccer

Captains: Beatrice Donovan '23.5, Emma Binks '23.5, Ella Gagnon '23.5, Jazzaray McClinton '23.5

Players to watch: Joely Virzi '24, Roshann Purcell '26, Ella Gagnon '23.5.

Background: Middlebury women's soccer faced an abrupt ending to the 2022 season, when a brutal loss in the NESCAC quarterfinals to Trinity sent the Panthers home. However, the Panthers winning record and strong group of returners led by top goal-scorer Virzi (four shots, out of a total nine points scored) is certainly showing signs of brilliance and promises of revenge as the team intends on returning rising to the top of the conference. Since graduating prominent senior-defenders, a new back line containing sophomore Roshann Purcell could mean a changing of the guard defensively this season, bringing on a regime of possession, technical play, and new opportunities for revenge against key conference opponents like Amherst, Tufts and Williams.

Key Competitions: Wesleyan (Home–Sept. 30), Tufts (Home–Oct. 21), and Williams (Away–Oct. 24)

Men's Soccer

Captains: Jordan Saint Louis '24, Ben Powers '23.5, Luke Madden '24.5

Players to watch: Jordan Saint Louis '24, Ryan Grady '23.5, Shane Farrell '24.5

Background: Coming off a first round appearance in the NCAA tournament last season, the Middlebury Men's Soccer team started off the 2023 season strong, definitively toppling Mount Saint Mary College (NY) 11-1 and tying 1-1 with critical NESCAC opponent, Amherst. Saint Louis is expected to take the lead for the Panthers' offense as the top scorer last season, scoring 6 goals and totaling 15 points. Returning for his senior season, Grady sits at the helm of the Middlebury defense this year; Not to be forgotten, Grady was recognized as National Goalkeeper of the Year in 2021, started in every game during the 2022 season, and will be stepping into goal this year as a First-Team All-American and school record-holder in shutouts (29). Looking forward, an array of strong returners could mean a formidable Middlebury lineup will be ready to take on the most critical conference opponents later in the season.

Key Competitions: Bowdoin (Home-Sep. 23), Tufts (Home–Oct. 21), Williams (Away–Oct. 24)

Women's Cross Country

Head Coach: Nicole Wilkerson

Captains: Tatum Peskin '24, Winnie Wang '24

Athletes to Watch: Bea Parr '25, Audrey Maclean '27, Morgane Orcutt '25

Background: The main question surrounding the women's cross country team is how they will respond to the graduation of Kate Kenny '23 and Audrey Grimes '23, who finished last season as two of the team's top runners. Star runner Parr returns after struggling with injury last season, so keeping her healthy will be of the utmost importance for the team this season. She is backed by a strong team with Orcutt and Peskin looking to build off their strong performances last year, and if the team can avoid injury, there is certainly reason to believe the Panthers can improve from last year's 8th place finish.

Key Competitions: Aldrich Invitational (Home-Sept. 16), NESCAC Championship (Away-Oct. 28)

Men's Cross Country

Head Coach: Nicole Wilkerson

Captains: Alec Gironda '24, Peter Burke '24

Athletes to Watch: Benjamin

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COURTESY PHOTO

FALL SPORTS PREVIEWS

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Hughes 27, Drew Donahue ’25, Shef West ’26

Background: The men’s cross country team finished an impressive third at last year’s NESCAC championship, and with almost a full slate of returners there will certainly be hope that they can improve their finish and compete for the title. Zander Kessler ‘22.5’s departure will certainly leave a hole behind top runner Gironda, but the Panthers have a clutch of young runners eager to prove themselves, headlined by recent Maple Syrup Challenge winner Hughes. As with any running team, fitness and injury prevention will play a key role in the team’s level of success this fall, but when fully fit the Panthers are among the best teams in the league. Expect a competitive push for the NESCAC title.

Key Competitions: Aldrich Invitational (Home-Sept. 16), NESCAC Championship (Away-Oct. 28)

Women’s Golf

Head Coach: Tim Walko

Athletes to watch: Jacqueline Slinkard ’24, Audrey Tir ’25, Mia Politano ’25, Morgan Lee ’26

Background: Despite a quiet 2022 season that saw an early exit from the postseason, Women’s Golf is poised for a breakout season. Despite losing a third of their roster to graduation, the Panthers boast an astonishingly deep talent pool that draws from veterans and newcomers alike. Slinkard was a key cog in the team’s success last year as evidenced by her frequent stays at the top of the Panthers’ stat sheets. Tir and Politano have both shown flashes of brilliance in their own right with Tir claiming medalist honors at the Hamilton College Women’s Invitational last weekend. Lee exemplifies the promising youth on the roster, having been named to the All NESCAC First Team last season. The Panthers are also experiencing a changing of the guard at Head Coach. This year they will be led by Interim Head Coach Tim Walko who is coming off of an eleven year tenure at College of the Holy Cross. With only four competitions until the NESCAC Qualifiers, fans should be excited to see what women’s golf has to offer.

Key Competitions: George Phinney Classic (Home–Sept. 16–17), Williams Fall Invitational (Away–Sept. 23–24), Wesleyan Invitational (Away–Sept. 30–Oct. 1)

Men’s Golf

Head Coach: Tim Walko

Athletes to watch: Colin McCaigue ’24, Paul Fine-Lease ’25, Charlie Schulman ’26

Background: Following their 10th NESCAC Championship crown and successful romp through the NCAA Championships, men’s golf now looks forward to a changing of the guard in leadership on two fronts. The Panthers are helmed by Interim Head Coach Tim Walko who is coming off of an eleven year tenure at Holy Cross College. Four seniors have departed the team — all of whom were the nucleus of last year’s deep postseason run. Despite all of these unknowns, the Panthers’ have shown a lot of promise in their limited sample size so far. Schulman performed admirably at last weekend’s Duke Nelson Invitational and was the only non-senior to compete in last year’s NESCAC and NCAA Championships. McCaigue and Fine-Lease were often found towards the top of the Panther’s stat sheet and return for their senior seasons. With a slew of new faces at every level, this season promises to be an exciting spectacle for everyone involved.

Key Competitions: Williams Invitational (Away–Sept. 16–17), Bowdoin Invitational (Away–Sept. 23–24), NEIGA Championship (Away–Oct 13–14)

Women’s Tennis

Head Coach: Taka Bertrand

Athletes to watch: Amy Delman ’24, Sahana Raman ’25

Background: Last year’s fourth-ranked Middlebury made it all the way to the NCAA semifinals for the seventh year in a row and will look to go one step further, building off of the continued success of their two All-American athletes Amy Delman and Raman. With a combined 12-0 record as a doubles pair, they finished last year as the 10th best duo in the country. Their success will define a team looking to repeat a NESCAC Championship in the spring season after they finished with a 9-1 record last year. The ITA Regionals will be a key litmus test for this team, with Delman and Raman now proven vets to continue the recent dominant stretch of women’s tennis.

Key competitions: ITA Regional Championship (Away-Sept. 22-24), Middlebury Panther Challenge (Home- Oct. 13-15)

Men’s Tennis

Head Coach:
Andrew Thomson

Athletes to watch: Noah Laber ’24, Neel Epstein ’25, Zihao Yuan ’24

Background: Men’s tennis looks to build off a three way tie for second place in the NESCAC with Williams and Bowdoin last season. After seeing Tufts finish last year’s NESCAC season unbeaten, Middlebury will need a near-perfect run in the spring to have a shot at the trophy and will need a strong fall to position themselves. Key to Midd’s plans will be Laber, tabbed as an ITA All-American last season along with departed senior Aidan Harris ’23. Returning veterans such as Epstein and Yuan will be called upon to step up in his place. Finding a replacement for Harris as well as Laber’s continued success will prove vital to Midd’s success on the courts this year as they eye a comeback in the ITA Championships in October.

Key competitions: Middlebury Invitational (Home–Sept. 16–17), ITA Regional Championships (Away–Sept. 29–Oct. 1)

Field Hockey

Head Coach: Katharine DeLorenzo

Captains: Katie George ’24, Charlotte Marks ’23.5, Audrey Lazar ’23.5

Players to watch: Amy Griffin ’24.5, Katie George ’24, Katherine Lantzy ’25

Background: All-Americans Katie George and Charlotte Marks return to the field this year as captains, alongside fellow senior captain Audrey Lazar, looking to lead the team to another dominant season in the pursuit of Middlebury field hockey’s sixth consecutive NCAA championship title. Also returning this year is All-American Griffin, a seasoned starter who led the team in goals scored (18) during the 2022 season. Lantzy is certainly a player to watch this season, recognized last season as a member of the NCAA All-Tournament Team and NFHCA All-Region Second-Team. Looking forward, it is clear that between injuries and new rising stars, the lineup to start off the season is anything but set in stone. However, after a strong set of wins to kick off the 2023 season against Castleton (12-0), #10 ranked NESCAC opponent Amherst (3-0), and University of New England (6-0), all eyes are on the team, yet again, looking to see whether the magic and winning tradition of Middlebury field hockey with coach DeLorenzo at the helm will carry into 2023.

Key Competitions: Bowdoin (Home–Sept. 23), Trinity (Away–Oct. 14), Tufts (Home–Oct. 21)

Football

Head Coach: Doug Mandigo

Captains: Cole Kennon ’23.5, Finn Muldoon ’23.5, Kwesi Adu-Diawo ’23.5

Athletes to watch: Donovan Wood ’24, Cole Kennon ’23.5, Tomas Kenary ’24.5

Background: On the heels of a second place NESCAC finish in 2022, the football team looks to navigate the loss of long time head coach Bob Ritter while still continuing its turnaround from the disappointing 2021 season. That year, the squad put together a poor 3-6 record, suffering from lackluster results on both sides of the ball, scoring an average 17.56 points a game but giving up 24.33 to opponents each game. 2022 saw a much more prolific offense put up 28.22 points a game. The Panthers’ defense improved by a two point per game reduction, but this team’s strength will continue to be its offense as Wood looks to continue his role as star receiver of the team. Wood averaged 17.37 yards per game en route to putting up the third best total yardage in Middlebury history. Also look to Kennon to step into Ben Tauber ’23’s shoes as starting quarterback this year and Kenary to lead a defense hoping to build off a strong 2022 season. The Panthers are certainly in the mix for the NESCAC title once again but will need a near perfect season to claim the win.

Key competitions: Wesleyan (Away–Sept. 23), Trinity (Away–Oct. 14), Tufts (Home–Nov. 11)

Women’s Volleyball

Head Coach:
Sarah Raunecker

Captains: Kelly Ferrero ’23.5, Lexi Linafelter ’24

Athletes to Watch: Katie Kraczkowski ’24, Gabbie O’Toole ’25, Ava Tuccio ’26

Background: The team may have started the season with a negative 1-2 record, but the early signs are promising for the women’s volleyball team. Led by defensive specialist Ferrero, who recorded her 1,000th dig in Saturday’s matchup against Gettysburg College, and middle hitter Linafelter, the team boasts a talented roster combining youth and experience. Molly Harrison ‘27 and Lauren Baxter ‘27 led the team in kills in the game against Gettysburg, while last year’s top scorer Kraczkowski has also made a strong start to the season. The team has graduated two starters since last season, but with the strong cast of rookies stepping up, the Panthers look set to fill the gaps left by last year’s seniors. Expect a playoff push by the Panthers this season, who will look to make a deeper run after last year’s quarter final exit.

Key Competitions: Williams (Home-Sept. 15)), Tufts (Home-Sept. 29), Wesleyan (Home-Oct. 27)

Editor’s note: Lexi Linafelter ’24 is a sports editor and a captain of the women’s volleyball team.